

August 24, 1956

Dear Curt:

Thank you for your note of the 20th. I will be very much interested to hear the decisive outcome of the rabbit experiments. Perhaps there still would be some merit in the experiments with fish, though it would be some time before I could divert myself to them.

I was sorry to learn that there may be an undercurrent of mystery about my (not) going to the Japan meeting. There was indeed a great deal of confusion at first, doubtless aggravated by a mixup between Esther and myself. This was finally cleared up, and I was offered a travel grant, but as might be expected, we did not both qualify. By this time we had made firmer plans for a very extensive (circumglobal) itinerary next year (in connection with a visiting lectureship at Melbourne) and together with some personal considerations, this made it advisable not to make the Tokyo trip.

I myself have no idea "what really happened" about that initial confusion, but the AIBS says this was a clerical error, and I prefer to accept that statement at face value. It was unfortunate that Esther was initially told she was an alternate, and had an excellent chance to qualify, and was then told flatly some weeks later that her application had been simply declined.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg